

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 04732 171616Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIE-00 ACDA-10 IO-10 SAM-01 OMB-01

MC-02 AID-05 IGA-01 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /083 W

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INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

EUCOM PRIORITY

CINCUSAFE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINT MASS TU US

SUBJ: OPPOSITION LEADER ECEVIT CRITICIZES SOFTNESS OF
GOT'S RESPONSE TO ARMS EMBARGO

REF: ANKARA 4707

1. WITHIN A FEW HOURS AFTER FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL'S ANNOUNCEMENT
JUNE 17 OF GOT'S RESPONSE TO U.S. ARMS EMBARGO (REFTEL),
PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION LEADER BULENT ECEVIT, CHAIRMAN OF
REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP), ISSUED PRESS RELEASE CRITICIZING
DEMIREL GOVERNMENT FOR BASING RESPONSE ON NEGOTIATIONS INSTEAD OF
TAKING UNILATERAL ACTION.

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 04732 171616Z

2. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF SIGNIFICANT

EXCERPTS FROM ECEVIT'S STATEMENT:

BEGIN QUOTE:

ALTHOUGH OUR ALLY AMERICA HAS UNILATERALLY VIOLATED ITS COMMITMENTS IN TURKEY WITH ITS EMBARGO DECISION, AS EXPLAINED IN THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TODAY, THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT IS NOT CONTEMPLATING TAKING UNILATERAL MEASURES IN VIEW OF THIS UNILATERAL VIOLATION. THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WANTS TO DISCUSS WITH THE UNITED STATES HOW IT WILL REACT AND WHAT MEASURES IT WILL TAKE IN VIEW OF THE UNILATERAL VIOLATION OF RELATIONS OF ALLIANCE AND BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN TURKEY AND AMERICA.

AMERICA TOOK THE EMBARGO DECISION WITHOUT FEELING THE NEED OF DISCUSSING IT WITH TURKEY. NOW, TURKEY IS INVITING AMERICA TO NEGOTIATIONS FOR MEASURES IT WILL TAKE IN VIEW OF THE DECISION OF THE UNITED STATES. FURTHERMORE, THE GOVERNMENT IS EVEN RECOGNIZING A GRACE PERIOD OF THIRTY DAYS TO START NEGOTIATIONS, AS IF THERE HAD BEEN NO ACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT DURING THE PAST MONTHS.

I AM OF THE OPINION THAT THERE IS NO PRECEDENT FOR THIS SITUATION IN THE HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

THE ANSWERS GIVEN TO QUESTIONS BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER, IN VIEW OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ANNOUNCEMENT, ARE EVEN MORE OF A SOURCE OF CONCERN. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT THE PROBLEM BETWEEN TURKEY AND THE UNITED STATES AND THE COMMON DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS IN TURKEY DID NOT CONCERN OTHER NATO COUNTRIES. WHEREAS, UNTIL NOW, QUITE THE CONTRARY WAS SAID. IT WAS JUSTIFIABLY BEING ADVANCED THAT AMERICA'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS TURKEY SHOULD CONCERN ALL OF NATO. NOW, FOR SOME REASON, THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN TAKEN WITHIN A FRAMEWORK THAT INVOLVES ONLY TURKEY AND AMERICA. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHY THERE WAS NEED FOR SUCH A SUDDEN AND IMPORTANT CHANGE IN THIS PHASE AND WHAT BENEFIT IS EXPECTED FOR TURKEY FROM THIS CHANGE.

THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS INDICATED THAT TURKEY IS PAYING CLOSE ATTENTION SO THAT THE RELATIONS OTHER THAN COMMON DEFENSE RELATIONS ARE NOT AFFECTED. IT IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND THIS ALSO.
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PAGE 03 ANKARA 04732 171616Z

IF ONE DAY TURKEY SHOULD BE OBLIGED TO CHANGE HER DEFENSE POLICY IN THE FACE OF THE ATTITUDE TAKEN BY AMERICA, IT IS ONLY NATURAL THAT THIS WILL CAUSE MULTILATERAL CONSEQUENCES IN ALL FIELDS. THESE STRANGE WORDS OF THE MINISTER SERVE NO PURPOSE OTHER THAN TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT TURKEY IS NOT AND WILL NOT BE CONTEMPLATING ANY SERIOUS MEASURE IN THE FACE OF UNILATERAL AMERICAN DECISION.

IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION, THE MINISTER HAS SAID THAT DURING THE PERIOD OF NEGOTIATIONS ON COMMON DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS IN TURKEY AND BILATERAL TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS, A PROVISIONAL STATUS WOULD BE APPLIED ON CONDITION THAT IT IS NOT TO BE CONSIDERED AS A PRECEDENT AND A STARTING POINT FOR NEGOTIATIONS. THESE WORDS DO NOT STRENGTHEN THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, BECAUSE IT SHOWS TURKEY TO BE UNDECISIVE.

A COUNTRY WHICH HAS A GEO-POLITICAL POSITION LIKE TURKEY'S CANNOT LEAVE ITS DEFENSE PROBLEMS IN SUSPENSE UNTIL THE END OF A SERIES OF NEGOTIATIONS, THE OUTCOME OF WHICH IS NOT KNOWN. OUR DEFENSE PROBLEMS CANNOT BE TAKEN SO LIGHTLY. IF WE, OURSELVES, TAKE OUR DEFENSE PROBLEMS SO LIGHTLY AND ACT AS IF WE WERE UNAWARE OF THE URGENCY OF THE PROBLEMS, WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF EVEN OUR CLOSEST FRIENDS.

END QUOTE.
BERGUS

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